

S E C R E T

E N C L O S U R E

INITIAL EMERGENCY ACTION FOR
OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

Report by the
State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Subcommittee
for Special Studies and Evaluations

THE PROBLEM

1. To define the initial emergency action to be taken in the field of overt psychological warfare in the event of war or threat of war as determined by the President; provided that no national wartime agency for overt psychological warfare, or nucleus thereof, shall have been established.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. SWNCC 304/1 approved 29 April 1947, Appendix "A", states that:

"7. The Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare (PWC)* shall be responsible for the:

"a. Preparation of national plans and implementing directives relating to the employment of psychological warfare in time of war (or threat of war as determined by the President), and for transmission of subject plans to SWNCC.**

"b. Preparation of plans for orderly and effective organizational transition of the P.W.C. from peacetime to wartime status, and for transmission of these plans to SWNCC.**

"c. Coordination of implementation of approved plans and directives as specified in a, preceding, in the absence of a national wartime organization for psychological warfare.

* Now the Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations (SSE)

** Now the State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Committee (SANACC)

"d. Guidance and supply of necessary information, including implementing requirements therefor, concerning national psychological warfare plans to appropriate policy offices of the State, War and Navy Departments and to the Director of Central Intelligence, and to authorized coordinating agencies of other Departments of the Government of the United States."

SANA-6199, 13 August 1948, modified the Charter of the SANAC Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations (SSE), directing the Subcommittee "to confine its studies and plans to overt psychological warfare, for use in time of war or threat of war as determined by the President."

3. No national agency for planning and coordinating wartime overt psychological operations in support of joint war plans or national policy is now in existence. Under the policy guidance of the State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Committee, the Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations is the only unit within the Executive branch of the Federal government presently charged with planning and coordinating responsibilities for such operations.

4. The Interdepartmental Coordinating Staff, established within the Department of State under the provisions of NSC-4*, assists in obtaining the most effective utilization and coordination of all federal foreign information facilities in accordance with the intent of Public Law 402 (80th Congress). The Interdepartmental Coordinating Staff is not charged with planning in peacetime for the conduct of overt psychological warfare in support of joint war plans.

5. The Department of State and the National Military Establishment currently operate information facilities which are adaptable for immediate conversion to overt psychological warfare activities in an emergency.

*Paragraph 8c, NSC-4 established a staff consisting of personnel detailed from each appropriate department or agency (State, Army, Navy, Air Force, CIA) to assist the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs.

ASSUMPTIONS

6. Armed conflict will be forced upon the U.S. without warning by a foreign power or group of powers,

7. Appropriate authority will provide national policy guidance for psychological warfare,

CONCLUSIONS

8. Under the conditions assumed above, and under the present Charter responsibilities of the SANAC Subcommittee for Special Studies and Evaluations, the absence of a national organization for overt psychological warfare will require that the State-Army-Navy-Air Force Coordinating Committee immediately request appropriate higher authority to designate formally the Subcommittee as the nucleus of the national Agency as approved in SANACC 304/6 and 304/12, and supported by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in SANACC 304/14; such Agency to function under policy guidance as provided for in the SANACC 304 series.

9. Under the authority provided in paragraph 9 above, said national Agency will coordinate the implementation of overt psychological warfare plans and directives of appropriate Federal departments and agencies,

10. Overt psychological warfare operational responsibilities should be assigned to Executive Departments as follows:

a. To the Department of State responsibility for overt psychological warfare activities outside of theaters of military operations;

b. To the National Military Establishment, under guidance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, responsibility for overt psychological warfare activities within theaters of military operations.

RECOMMENDATION

11. It is recommended that the above Conclusions be approved and appropriate agencies be advised.

SANACC 304/17

- 103 -
(Revised 3 January 1949)

Enclosure

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STATE-ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

CORRIGENDUM

TO

SANACC 304/17

INITIAL EMERGENCY ACTION FOR OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

Note by the Secretaries

At the request of the originators holders of SANACC 304/17 are requested to make the following changes therein:

a. Substitute the attached revised page 103 for pages 103 and 104 contained therein and destroy the superseded pages by burning. ✓

b. Change the notation "Pages 101-104, incl", at the top of the cover page thereon to read "Pages 101-103, incl.". ✓



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Secretariat

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